SI. No.	Satellite	Life Span
29.	INDIAN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE (still (IRS-1D) 3	More than 3 years operating) Mission Life : Years.
30.	INDIAN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE operat- (IRS-P4) 5	About 1 Year (still ing) Mission Life : Years.

Danger to the Country's Security

† 617. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that American companies have free access to vital organisation like atomic and defence organisations in the name of satellite imaging;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has endangered the security of the country; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)i (a) and (b) No, Sir. American Companies have only access to take imagery from Outer Space, which is beyond our sovereign air space.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Imaging capabilities from space and the consequent availability' of such information by other countries has already been a factor, which was reckoned in our security planning. Government has also been aware of the worldwide commercial remote sensing developments and has taken measures to regulate the acquisition and distribution of data within the country. In addition, Government has also taken steps to further enhance our own space remote sensing capabilities.

Satellite system for private investment

618. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open up the satellite system for private investment;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved the norms, guidelines and procedures for establishment and operation of Indian Satellite Sys tems as highlighted below:

(i) Only Indian registered companies with Foreign Direct Investment not exceeding 74% are allowed.

(ii) The required technical, financial, regulatory and legal credentials would be examined by a standing committee called Committee for Authorising the Establishment & operation of Indian Satellite System (CAISS).

(iii) CAISS will act as the single window for clearing the applications for setting up Indian Satellite Systems.

(c) CAISS has been formed and the process of implementation has begun.

Cost and Time Overrun of Central Projects

619. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the newsitem, captioned "Projects' costs rise due to Government laxity" appearing in the Times of India dated 17th May, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the cost and time overrun of the Central projects during 1999-2000;

(c) what steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to remove the bottleneck responsible for delay in the completion of the projects; and